

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 IO-13 SSM-03 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02

DHA-02 ORM-02 OMB-01 SCA-01 AID-05 MCT-01 SCS-03

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 SAM-01 /116 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1702

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 087

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERH

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

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CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 7303

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION SEPTEMBER 7

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REF: BEIRUT 7294

1. SUMMARY: PIERRLOTAYEL SPENDS THREE HOURS WITH ASSAD IN DAMASCUS. SPEAKER OF HOUSE PREPARES FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SWEARING IN OF SARKIS. PALESTINIANS AND NATIONAL MOVEMENT REPRESENTATIVES DENOUNCE NEW SYRIAN PEACE PLAN AS OLD SYRIAN PLAN THEY HAVE ALREADY REJECTED. NATIONAL UNION FRONT DEPLORES DO-NOTHING AL FONMINS. ANTI-SYRIAN DEMONSTRATIONS REPORTED FROM BEKAA. AL SPOKESMAN ACCUSES RIGHTISTS OF FIRING ON AL FORCES ON BEIRUT CONFRONTATION LINE. ABU IYAD DENIES PALESTINIAN ACCEPTANCE OF CAIRO ACCORDS IS A COMPROMISE. SARKIS AND KARAME DENY TIME REPORT THEY HAVE ALLIANCE WITH ISRAEL. GROUND SITUATION TENSE BUT NO LARGE-SCALE MOVEMENT. HEAVY BOMBARDMENTS IN METN, AROUND TRIPOLI AND IN BEIRUT SUBURBS. END SUMMARY.

2. GEMAYEL/ASSAD MEETING. PIERRE GEMAYEL RETURNED BEIRUT LATE SEPT 6 FOLLOWING THREE-HOUR DAMASCUS MEETING WITH ASSAD. GEMAYEL TOLD PRESS HE DID NOT DISCUSS A LEBANESE/SYRIAN SECURITY ACCORD WITH ASSAD. GEMAYEL ACCOMPANIED BY KATAEB DELEGATION OF AMIN GEMAYEL, KARIM PAKRADOUNI, EDMOND RIZK, JOSEPH SAADE AND FOUAD HABEIKA, WHO MET WITH SYRIAN FONMIN ABDEL-HALIM KHADDAM AND VICE-MINISTER OF DEFENSE NAJI JAMIL.

3. SARKIS TAKEOVER. SPEAKER OF HOUSE KAMEL EL-ASSAD HAS CALLED FOR SEP 14 PREPARAOORY MEETING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUREAU TO PREPARE FOR UPCOMING MEETING OF DEPUTIES TO SWEAR IN SARKIS. PRESIDENT OF "ANCIENS DES MAKASSED," ABDEL AZIZ KABBANI, SAYS SARKIS SHOULD TAKE OATH OF OFFICE BEFORE BEGINNING HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES OR RISK CREATING PROBLEMS THAT ARE "NEITHER IN THE INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY NOR IN HIS OWN INTEREST."

4. NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND PALESTINIANS. JUNBLATT, ARAFAT AND OTHER NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND PALESTINIAN LEADERS MET SEP 6 TO EXAMINE "NEW" SYRIAN PEACE PLAN CARRIED FROM DAMASCUS SEP 5 BY PALESTINIAN ENVOYS ABU-MAZEN AND ABU-MAHER. LEFTIST/PALESTINIAN GROUP SAID DAMASCUS PROPOSAL FOR TRIPARTITE MEETING OF SYRIA, PALESTINIANS AND "LEGITIMATE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES" CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTAINS NOTHING NEW AND THEY HAVE ALREADY REJECTED SYRIAN DEMAND, AS BY "LEGITIMATE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES" SYRIANS MEAN FRANGIE. LEFTISTS/PALESTINIANS, ACCORDING TO AL MUHARRIR, WOULD FIND LEBANESE REPRESENTATION UNDER AEGIS OF SARKIS ACCEPTABLE. JUNBLATT SPEAKS FAVORABLY OF A SYRIAN-JORDANIAN-LEBANESE FEDERATION, BUT UNDER NUMBER OF CONDITIONS INCLUDING PARTICIPATION OF IRAQ AND EGYPT.

5. MODERATES MEET. NATIONAL UNITY FRONT, INCLUDING EDDE AND SALAM, MET SEP 6 DEPLORING AL FONMIN DECISION TO DELAY ARAB SUMMIT UNTIL LATE OCTOBER AND CASTIGATING LACK OF AL INTEREST IN ISRAELI THREAT TO SOUTH LEBANON. LATER SALAM LASHED OUT AT NATIONAL MOVEMENT CRITICS OF HIS UPCOMING DAMASCUS TRIP, ACCUSING NM LEADERSHIP OF PRACTICING "INTELLECTUAL TERRORISM" OF A COMMUNIST TYPE.

6. ANTI-SYRIAN DEMONSTRATIONS. PRESS CARRIES STORY OF ANTI-SYRIAN DEMONSTRATIONS IN BAALBEK-HERMEL DISTRICT. DEMONSTRATIONS SAID TO INCLUDE SHOP CLOSINGS AND DISTRIBUTION OF ANTI-SYRIAN PAMPHLETS. ACCORDING TO ASSAFIR, 10,000 PEOPLE DEMONSTRATED IN BAALBEK, HOWEVER, LEBANESE ARMY G-2 SAYS PRESS REPORT GREATLY INFLATED. GENERAL STRIKE CALLED SEP 5 BY "THE POPULAR RESISTANCE FRONT IN THE BEKAA." HEADS OF TRIBES IN AREA SAID TO HAVE MET SEP 6 TO DISCUSS SITUATION. SYRIANS REPORTEDLY HAVE ESTABLISHED SMALL LOCAL BROADCASTING STATION, "VOICE OF THE PEOPLE," AT RAYAK AIRBASE.

7. INCIDENTS AT MUSEUM CROSSING POINT. SPOKESMAN FOR AL PEACE FORCE ACCUSES RIGHTISTS OF FIRING ON AL FORCES IN NATIONAL MUSEUM AREA SEP 4, 5, AND 6, USING SMALL ARMS, ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS AND MORTARS. MOURABITOUN LEADER IBRAHIM QULEILAT AGAIN DENIES RIGHTIST ACCUSATION HIS GROUP FIRED ON AL FORCES. CONVOY OF FATAH SECURITY CHIEF ABU HASSAN FIRED ON SEPT 4. FATAH MAJOR NIZAR AMMAR SERIOUSLY WOUNDED NEAR MUSEUM SEP 1* WHILE ENROUTE TO TALKS WITH SARKIS' MILITARY COUNSELLOR COLONEL OICHEL NASSIF. PRESS SAYS SARKIS CONFIDENTIAL

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THEREUPON CANCELLED PLANS TO CROSS INTO WEST BEIRUT SEP 6 TO MEET ABU IYAD. KATAEB RADIO SAYS "CRIMINAL HANDS" BEHIND THE NIZAR AMMAR SHOOTING, IMPLYING MOURATWOMUN AND OTHER LEFTISTS ARE GUILTY. LEBANESE ARMY G-2 HAS REPORT THAT ONE OF MUHSIN IBRAHIM'S MEN WAS RESPONSIBLE. CHAMOUN'S NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY MAY BE BEHIND INCIDENTS AS EXPRESSION OF DISPLEASURE OVER NEGOTIATIONS WITH PALESTINIANS. AL MUOARRIR SAYS SHOOTINGS AT PALESTINIANS HAVE STRAINED NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY PHALANGE RELATIONS.

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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O P 071225Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1703

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 088

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 7303

8. PALESTINIANS. FATAH NUMBER TWO ABU IYAD TOLD

AN NAHAR PALESTINIANS WOULD NEED NO MORE THAN TWO HOURS

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TO CONFORM TO CAIRO ACCORDS SHOULD "LEGAL AUTHORITY" BE ESTABLISHED IN LEBANON. HE SAID INAUGURATION OF SARKIS WILL BE "A BEGINNING OF REESTABLISHMENT OF LEGALITY." ABU IYAD DENIED HE TOLD THE ROME CORRIERE DELLA SEYA IN RECENT INTERVIEW THAT PALESTINIANS ARE READY TO MAKE CONCESSIONS, AS APPLICATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS IS "NOT A CONCESSION." HOWEVER, WE HEAR NUMEROUS REPORTS THAT PALESTINIANS ARE SEEKING COMPROMISE WITH SYRIANS ON SYRIAN MILITARY PRESENCE INEBANON. PALESTINIANS ALSO EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER SYRIAN/LIBYAN RAPPROCHEMENT, WHICH COULD LESSEN LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR THEMSELVES AND LEBANESE LEFT.

9. SARKIS AND KARAME DENY TIME STORY. SARKIS AND KARAME HAVE ISSUED DENIALS OF TIME MAGAZINE STORY ALLEGING SECRET ALLIANCE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND CONSERVATIVE LEBANESE, INCLUDING THEMSELVES. SARKIS SAYS ACCUSATION IS "SO RIDICULOUS IT DOES NOT EVEN MERIT A DENIAL," AND KARAME CALLS STORY "LACKING ALL FOUNDATION."

10. GROUND SITUATION. THE METN IS THE HOTTEST AREA WITH INTENSE ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS OF AINTOURA, MTEIN, QURNAYEL, DHOUR CHOUEIR AND BASKINTA. SHELLING CONTINUES IN THE NORTH AROUND TRIPOLI AND BETWEEN TRIPOLI AND ZGHORTA. THERE ARE CONTRADICTORY REPORTS OF ARTILLERY FIRE IN THE SOUTH BETWEEN JEZZINE AND ROUM. IN BEIRUT CLASHES REPORTED IN COMMERCIAL AREA AND LIMITED SHELLING OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN BOTH EAST AND WEST BEIRUT. HEAVY SHELLING CONTINUES AT CHIYAH/AIN EL-RUMMANEH, WHERE AN NAHAR REPORTS 36 KILLED AND 48 WOUNDED, AND AT HAZMIEH, YARZE AND BAABDA. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF CHANGES IN GROUND POSITIONS DESPITE LIMITED SORTIES ON SEVERAL FRONTS. WE HAVE AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF 500 ARMED IRAQIS IN LOWER CHOUF ENROUTE TO VILLAGE OF DIBBIYA. LAA RADIO CLAIMS RIGHTIST ELEMENTS BEING SENT FROM JOUNIEH VIA HAIFA TO LAUNCH ATTACK ON PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST POSITIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON.

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